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1 STATE OF MISSOURI

2 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

3 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

4
5 PUBLIC HEARING

6 January 12, 2006

7 Washington, Missouri

8

9 In the Matter of a Request)
for Expansion of the St. Louis)
10 Metropolitan Calling Area Plan)Case No. TO-2005-0141
to Include the Exchanges of) (consolidated with
11 Washington, Union, St. Clair,)Case No. TO-2003-0298)
Marthasville, Beaufort, Foley)
12 and Warrenton)

13

14 NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
15 JEFF DAVIS, Chairman
CONNIE MURRAY
16 ROBERT M. CLAYTON, III
COMMISSIONERS

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19 APPEARANCES:
Mimi MacDonald, Southwestern Bell
20 Mike Dandino, Deputy Public Counsel
Mark Poston, Public Service Commission
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I N D E X

Witness Name

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John Griesheimer

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Ron Licklider

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Russell Rost

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Dennis Kramme

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Rita Griesheimer

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE DIPPELL: Let's go ahead and go
3 on the record. This is case number
4 TO-2005-0141. The Missouri Public Service
5 Commission has set this time for a local public
6 hearing in this case in which the Office of the
7 Public Counsel seeks to expand the St. Louis
8 Metropolitan Calling Area Plan to include the
9 exchanges of Washington, Union, Wright City,
10 St. Clair, Marthasville, Beaufort, Foley and
11 Warrenton. The Missouri Public Service
12 Commission regulates the rates charged by
13 investor-owned utility companies in Missouri to
14 ensure that those rates are just and
15 reasonable. Commission also regulates the
16 quality of service and the safety of operations
17 in investor-owned utilities.

18 Commission is made up of five
19 Commissioners, three of whom are here with me
20 this evening. Commissioners are appointed by
21 the governor to fixed terms and confirmed by
22 the Senate. The Commissioners employ a staff
23 of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial
24 analysts and other specialists in the field of
25 utility regulation.

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1 My name is Nancy Dippell, and I'm
2 a regulatory law judge with the Commission.
3 It's my job to preside over the hearing this
4 evening.

5 To my right is Commissioner
6 Murray. To my left, the Chairman of the
7 Commission, Jeff Davis. To his left is
8 Commissioner Clayton.

9 In addition, we have a court
10 reporter here this evening who's
11 transcribing -- will be transcribing this part
12 of the session so that the other Commissioners
13 can review the comments. And those comments
14 will be made a part of our official record of
15 the case.

16 We have with us members of the
17 staff, which I think most of you have already
18 met.

19 Mr. Poston, here to the far left,
20 is an attorney for the staff.

21 And I believe you've probably
22 already met Mr. Scheperle.

23 Mr. Ochoa, our public relations.

24 We also have Mr. Mike Dandino, in
25 the Office of Public Counsel. The Office of

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1 Public Counsel represents the public before the
2 Commission.

3 In addition, we have some
4 representatives here from AT&T Missouri. Ms.
5 MacDonald, would you like to introduce --

6 MS. MacDONALD: I'm Mimi MacDonald.
7 I'm an attorney with AT&T Missouri, and I have
8 here with me Jason Olson, who's a regulatory
9 director of AT&T Missouri.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: And we have some
11 members of CenturyTel staff with us. Could you
12 raise your hands. Ms. Powell and Mr. Neely?
13 Is that --

14 MR. NEELY: Yes.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: This is an official
16 hearing of the Missouri Public Service
17 Commission and the statements and testimony of
18 witnesses will be recorded by the court
19 reporter and will be taken under oath or
20 affirmation.

21 The purpose of this hearing is to
22 receive comments from you regarding the
23 proposed plan of the Public Counsel. In the
24 proposed -- at this point, there's a proposed
25 stipulation in this particular case. It's your

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1 opportunity to comment, and your remarks will
2 become part of the official record.

3 I'll first ask if any of the
4 elected officials that are here tonight would
5 like to make any comments, and then I'll call
6 the name of each witness who has signed up to
7 speak in the order in which you've signed up.
8 When your name is called, please come forward
9 and stand at the microphone if you're able.
10 Please spell your name for the court reporter
11 so she can put it in the record correctly. And
12 I'll ask you to give your address. Then you'll
13 be allowed to make your statement. And if
14 you -- there may be some questions from the
15 Commissioners or myself. I'll also ask the
16 attorneys if they have any questions for you
17 before they leave. So I'll ask you to remain
18 at the podium until you've been excused.

19 We'll try to end promptly. I
20 believe we'll have enough time for everyone to
21 speak. But if you'd like to just get up and
22 say that you agree with the previous speaker,
23 that's all right as well. Please speak slowly
24 and clearly so the court reporter can hear you.

25 And finally, I'll ask that while

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1 someone else is testifying, that members of the
2 audience refrain from any outbursts or comments
3 or applause. We want to hear from everyone and
4 we don't want anyone whose opinion might be
5 different to feel intimidated.

6 We'd -- we'd like to recognize,
7 first of all, we have Senator Griesheimer with
8 us, and we have Representative Nieves. Is
9 that --

10 REPRESENTATIVE NIEVES: Close enough.

11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Close enough? I'm
12 sorry. Do we have any other elected officials
13 here this evening?

14 Senator, would you like to
15 begin --

16 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yes.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: -- the comments?

18 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Thank you very
19 much.

20 First of all, I want to welcome
21 you and the Commission and -- and the staff and
22 Mr. Dandino to Washington, Missouri for this --
23 for this hearing. Quite frankly, I'm a little
24 disappointed at the turnout that we have here
25 tonight.

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1 This has been a long process.
2 When we started, this -- this all -- for years,
3 this area -- and I'll give you a little
4 background. I started out on the City Council
5 here in 1982, so I've had a long history of
6 elected office here in this community and this
7 county. And for years, we have longed for
8 different choices for telecommunications
9 services. And until recently, we had --
10 obviously, we've had some plans that were --
11 were, you know, fairly good deals for the
12 consumers. In 2003, we had a plan that was
13 ultimately dropped by -- by our carrier here in
14 Franklin County, SBC. And that caused a number
15 of -- of residents -- at the time, I was just
16 elected to the Senate. And we were -- my
17 office, and I know the Office of the Public
18 Counsel, we were deluged by a number of
19 requests for choices for -- for customers after
20 the original plan was dropped. And this --
21 this hearing, I guess, is a culmination of
22 that. But since -- since all of that
23 happened --

24 Well, I guess -- first of all, I
25 guess I need to tell you for the record my name

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1 and address and all that. And I apologize.
2 For the record, my name's John Griesheimer.
3 It's G-R-I-E-S-H-E-I-M-E-R, State Senator,
4 District 26. My address is 33 Oxford Drive,
5 Washington, Missouri 63090.

6 And I guess to -- to at least kind
7 of culminate, since all of this happened in
8 2003, we passed some legislation. We had
9 Senate Bill 237, which has changed, I guess,
10 the telecommunications industry, per se. But
11 the bottom line is, I guess, is -- is I feel
12 that it is still important to give customers
13 and consumers more choices in their -- in
14 telecommunications. And I guess with the
15 advent of Senate Bill 237 and maybe some
16 changes that we've made there, up until that
17 point, really, we were -- the consumers were
18 locked in. We didn't have a whole lot of
19 choices regarding, you know, long -- not only
20 local service, but long distance service. And
21 I know that -- that climate has changed.

22 But I don't -- I don't want the
23 Commission or the Staff or the Office of Public
24 Counsel to look at this audience tonight and
25 say that well, the interest isn't there.

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1 Because it is there. There are people -- I
2 had -- I've had at least one constituent that
3 could not make it tonight. But -- and had a
4 list of questions for me to answer. And to be
5 honest with you, I forgot that. Put it out on
6 the top of my vehicle. And I could actually
7 answer, probably, some of those questions.

8 But I guess to sum it all down is
9 this is an important issue to this community
10 and to the cities of Washington and Union and
11 St. Clair, and then the community in -- I'll
12 have to correct you. It's Beaufort, not
13 Beaufort.

14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Oh, I'm sorry.

15 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: No. That's all
16 right. I know if you don't live here, you
17 don't know what the term -- what the
18 pronunciation is. But to those -- to the
19 residents there, there are a lot more choices
20 now than there were in 2003.

21 But the concern they I've always
22 had is choices come and go. And I know that --
23 that telecommunication is changing every day.
24 We're going to have a lot more choices in the
25 future with the advent of voice over internet

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1 protocol or even cable, now, that's being
2 considered. But the concern that I have is
3 that something -- even subject to change --
4 they're always subject to change. And plans
5 could be changed, prices could be changed,
6 everything could be changed. And we still --
7 we still, I feel, need a -- a -- an optional
8 tier to meet the growing number of residents'
9 needs that move out here from the St. Louis
10 area.

11 When I started here 24 years ago,
12 you know, everybody in town knew everybody. It
13 was a very close-knit community. Since then,
14 it has dramatically grown. Not only Washington
15 has grown, but also the other communities in
16 Franklin County. And a lot -- a large number
17 of those people that have moved out here have
18 moved out from the St. Louis Metropolitan area,
19 and have wanted more calling choices to call
20 their family and friends in St. Louis.

21 And now, we have -- we have a
22 large industrial base here. And it is -- a lot
23 of that is directly tied to the St. Louis area.

24 So I guess what I'm trying to say
25 is -- in a nutshell, is that I still feel, even

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1 with the advent of -- of new technology and
2 future technology, even though the MCA is --
3 is, to a degree, an outdated -- an outdated
4 mode, it still needs to remain, and we still --
5 I feel we still need to be a part of that.

6 I knew going in that to the -- to
7 the average consumer, this was not -- probably
8 not an option that they would choose to take,
9 with the advent of all the new calling plans,
10 and with -- with some type of -- with
11 competition. But there are still residents out
12 there that still love their local carrier.
13 They don't want -- they don't -- they want a
14 combined bill. They don't want to buy from one
15 or two different companies for services. They
16 want convenience. And they -- but yet they
17 want prices that are -- that are competitive.
18 And this is one way to do that. I can tell
19 you, I've had constituents that have had --
20 that have bought long distance plans from some
21 of these off-the-wall companies -- and I
22 shouldn't say that, but I will, for the
23 record -- and I've had to go back and help them
24 recoup their money, because there was
25 overcharges, or they tried to stop their plan,

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1 and they still continue to get charged.

2 And everybody's looking for the
3 best deal, and to keep their -- have the lowest
4 possible utility bill. But a lot of people, I
5 think, would pay a little bit more to have the
6 convenience of writing one check. And that's
7 what it's all about.

8 But to all the constituents that
9 live out here that did move out here from the
10 St. Louis area, and to all of our businesses
11 and industries, this is -- this is an important
12 issue.

13 And again, I don't want -- I don't
14 want the importance of that diminished by
15 looking out at the audience, and you see that
16 there's not that many people that are -- that
17 are interested in this. Because unless I'm
18 misjudging my constituency wrong -- and
19 obviously, there are times that I do, but
20 there's a lot of times that I don't -- this is
21 an important issue to us.

22 One other thing, regarding the
23 Marthasville exchange. Marthasville, even
24 though it is across the river in Warren County,
25 does share a community interest with Washington

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1 and with Franklin County, as much or more --
2 and there's a resident here -- as much or more
3 than it does with the other communities in
4 Warren County. So as you -- I'm not going to
5 be able to -- to be at the -- the hearing next
6 week at Innsbrook. But I do want -- want to
7 indicate that, at least from -- as we look at
8 community interest, that exchange, the 433
9 exchange, has a large community interest with
10 this community and with this side of the river,
11 I -- I think as much or more so than the other
12 communities in Warren County. So that, I want
13 to also be noted.

14 But other than this, I thank you
15 all for being here. And again, I apologize for
16 the light turnout. But I -- like I say, I felt
17 like I did the right thing back in -- when I
18 was asked to serve on the task force, and --
19 but this is the right thing to do for our --
20 for our consumers and constituency. So I don't
21 know if anybody has any questions.

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

23 Commissioner Murray, did you have
24 any questions for the Senator?

25 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I don't. But

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1 thank you, Senator, for being here.

2 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Thank you. And
3 truly, it is an honor for all of you -- since
4 I've worked with you all, it's an honor to have
5 you in our fine community.

6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton,
7 did you have any questions?

8 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Senator
9 Griesheimer, it's great to see you. And thank
10 you for coming out tonight.

11 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Same here.

12 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I think it's
13 safe to say that without your interest in this
14 case, we wouldn't be here tonight, and frankly,
15 we may not be talking about a stipulation
16 agreement that's been placed before the
17 Commission. I know you've been very passionate
18 in working on behalf of your constituents.

19 You made a couple comments in your
20 opening remarks, and I'm -- I'm, I guess,
21 looking at the impact in this community. And I
22 was expecting more people here tonight. And I
23 guess I wanted to ask a couple of questions
24 about the impact that this would have or -- or
25 what benefits it would bring.

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1 First of all, do you think this
2 expansion of the MCA, this optional plan, is
3 more important for residential service or for
4 business?

5 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Obviously, it's
6 more -- because of the pricing structure, it's
7 more important for business. But there are
8 still -- there are still consumers that, I
9 think, could still use this plan, because of
10 the -- the relationship that they have
11 either -- either by work or by residency or
12 relatives in the St. Louis area. But
13 obviously, the business end of it is
14 probably -- it's the biggest -- it is the
15 biggest asset to the plan.

16 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Okay. The
17 price that's been suggested -- and I suppose I
18 want to be clear on what the price is. I'm
19 going to ask our counsel. What is the price,
20 Mark, for the optional service for residential?

21 MR. POSTON: I believe it's -- I
22 believe it's \$32.50.

23 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: \$32.50? Does
24 that sound accurate?

25 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: \$32.50 or

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1 \$32.70, I think something like that for
2 residential, and then \$70.70 for business.

3 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: How different
4 is that \$32.50 from what the rates are
5 presently in Washington? Do you know?

6 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: It's probably a
7 little higher. One thing I want to add is
8 we've had -- we have had an MCA in Franklin
9 County for the last -- I'm going to say seven
10 years? Whenever the last MCA Tier 5 was added,
11 that included two exchanges, the Gray
12 Summit/Villa Ridge exchange, which is a 742
13 exchange, and the Pacific, Missouri exchange,
14 which was -- which was 257. So we've added two
15 new prefixes -- I can't -- anyway, 271 in
16 Pacific, and -- why can't I think of the other
17 one? But there's two exchanges that have been
18 added in Franklin County. And those -- those
19 are -- are directly connected to these other --
20 to these other areas. I can't quite -- upsets
21 me I can't think of the other one. 451.

22 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: You don't have
23 to name the prefix or the --

24 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Okay. Those are
25 the two that are --

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1 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: There won't be
2 a test for everyone who's here.

3 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: I know. I'm
4 sorry.

5 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: If we have to
6 start testing everybody on the numbers, I don't
7 think any of us would pass.

8 Were you in elected office or were
9 you monitoring those communities that were
10 involved in the last Tier 5 expansion?

11 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Truthfully? No.

12 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: You were not?

13 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: It happened. It
14 happened. And I don't know how it happened,
15 but I was not involved at that time. They were
16 established, but I was not involved in that.
17 And that's -- seeing the benefit that has --
18 has come from those two exchanges for their
19 customers, I -- I think that -- that's --
20 that's -- that is, I think, really the
21 advantageous part of this.

22 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: What benefits
23 have you seen in those communities?

24 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Well, there's
25 been -- there's been -- the city of Pacific

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1 alone is on the MCA plan. And -- and then
2 also, there -- there are a number of residents
3 in the -- the Gray Summit/Villa Ridge exchange,
4 the old 742 exchange, there are a number of
5 residents -- residents that have switched over
6 to the 451, MCA. And I mean -- and in fact, a
7 lady called in on a local call-in show on KLPW
8 radio a couple weeks ago -- that's our local
9 radio station here, one of them -- and she was
10 from the 451 exchange. And she -- she said
11 that it -- she loved it. And one -- another
12 plus is if you're in the MCA, you get a Yellow
13 Pages book, which we don't get here. So
14 there's -- even though that isn't a big thing,
15 it still gives them the outreach to get into
16 the St. Louis area.

17 And that's why I -- I feel that a
18 number of customers, they don't realize the
19 benefits that this has. And for the
20 residential consumer, it's not -- it's probably
21 not a good deal. But for the business
22 customers, it's a huge deal. And especially
23 the fact, with the economic development that we
24 have going on here in Franklin County, in
25 Washington, but also in the rest of the region.

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1 We depend very heavily on the St. Louis
2 metropolitan area. And I look at this from an
3 economic development standpoint. This is
4 another tool in the tool box that could -- will
5 help us attract more business and industry out
6 here, and help us grow, if we have this
7 optional service. Because it will direct --
8 directly connect them to the metropolitan area.
9 And that's where -- that's where the ties are,
10 is from us to the St. Louis area.

11 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Senator, what
12 you just said kind of concerns me, because you
13 mentioned -- I understand it's more important
14 for business than it would be for residential.
15 But I think you may have even used stronger
16 language, and I want to clarify. Because I'm
17 assuming you still believe this is important
18 for residential.

19 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Absolutely.
20 Absolutely. But you look at the pricing
21 structure, if it was -- if it was down -- if
22 you look at the other -- pricing structure
23 under the other tiers, yeah, it would -- people
24 would -- I mean, let's face it. That's what
25 drives everything, is price. But I think in

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1 the -- and I'll have to pull -- have SBC ATT
2 pull the numbers in the other -- the other two
3 exchanges. But I think it's been a success of
4 those exchanges having the optional service,
5 the 451, which does not -- by the way, the Gray
6 Summit -- the Gray Summit/Labadie exchange,
7 Villa Ridge exchange, the old 742 exchange is
8 not -- it's unincorporated area. There are no
9 incorporated towns or villages in that area.
10 And -- but there's a lot -- there's a lot of
11 common interest between that exchange and the
12 Union exchange. It used to, you could dial
13 from that exchange into Union, Missouri for --
14 for free. It was -- it was just an automatic
15 free call. And people have long -- down in
16 this area, they're tired of long distance.
17 They want -- they would like --

18 What everybody would love to have,
19 I think, is a mandatory MCA, where -- where you
20 pay one fee, you can call anywhere throughout
21 Franklin County or into the St. Louis area.
22 But looking at some of the numbers -- I'd love
23 to have that. But I look at it this way --

24 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I'd say a
25 mandatory one would probably be a smaller

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1 increase --

2 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Well --

3 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: -- than what's
4 suggested here.

5 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: I would honestly
6 love to do that. But I honestly didn't think
7 we could get there. What I thought, when we
8 started out this process --

9 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Well, we could
10 still get there. I mean, this case still has
11 to go to hearing if we don't approve the
12 stipulation. So feel free to -- I want to hear
13 your opinion on --

14 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: -- what you
16 think's best for the community.

17 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Well, I would
18 love to see a mandatory MCA at a much lower
19 price. Now -- but -- the reason why I started
20 this process is I felt we had -- to get -- to
21 get to that somewhere in the future, you've got
22 to start at Point A and work to Point B. And I
23 looked at the Greenwood -- what happened in
24 Greenwood. They were a -- they were -- they
25 were an optional service, and now they

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1 requested to go mandatory. And I felt that at
2 some point -- at some point, this community is
3 going to be there, and the other communities
4 here in Franklin County. I mean, the growth is
5 here.

6 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Okay.

7 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: And so that way,
8 I would -- yeah. I'll be honest with you. I
9 would rather see a mandatory MCA. That way,
10 if -- if we can lower the price. But again, if
11 I've got to take it one step at a time, going
12 from A to B, I'll do that. Because this gets
13 our foot in the door. And that's what I want.

14 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: And that's big
15 foot right there.

16 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: You're darn
17 right it is. Size 14.

18 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I'm going to
19 ask staff counsel one more question. Are there
20 any restrictions on -- on pricing in this
21 stipulation and agreement? Future pricing
22 beyond the \$32.50 and the \$70.70.

23 MR. POSTON: I don't believe so.

24 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: So there are no
25 restrictions on future pricing.

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1 MR. POSTON: I don't think so.

2 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Senator, did
3 you understand that provision? I'm not sure if
4 you heard staff counsel. There are no
5 restrictions on price adjustment in the future
6 on this optional service.

7 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: I didn't know
8 that until -- until today, that there's no cap,
9 the cap's taken off.

10 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: So having that
11 information that the Commission would
12 theoretically not have any oversight on future
13 pricing beyond when this stipulation -- if we
14 approve it -- would that cause you to change
15 your testimony here today at all?

16 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Probably. I
17 didn't know about that stipulation until today,
18 until earlier today, that there was no cap.
19 But I assumed -- and I guess that's the problem
20 with assuming -- that it would have -- another
21 increase would have to go through the PSC to
22 have that done. And what you're -- what you're
23 saying is that is not true?

24 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I don't believe
25 it is. It depends on the community, and it

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1 depends on the competitive classification. I
2 think Washington is competitively classified.

3 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yes. Yes, we
4 are.

5 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: But these are
6 things that we want to verify prior to
7 reviewing the stipulation. But certainly
8 that's an important point that I'm interested
9 in what you have to say about that.

10 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Well, as I say,
11 I was not aware of that until earlier this
12 afternoon.

13 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Have you
14 received -- have you seen a copy of the
15 stipulation agreement?

16 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yes, I have.
17 But I did not -- I honestly did not catch that
18 in the stipulation agreement.

19 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Okay.

20 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: And quite
21 frankly, I did not know that's what that meant.

22 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Okay. Last
23 question and I'll --

24 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Sure.

25 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: -- leave you

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1 alone. Are you aware of anyone in the
2 community, since you're out and about, that
3 would be opposed to this -- this type of an
4 agreement or this expansion of the MCA?

5 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Opposed? No.
6 People that will not -- that probably will
7 not -- would be opposed only for the reason
8 they would not take the service? Yeah. But
9 actually to oppose what we're doing? No. As I
10 say, if I -- if I knew that there would be a
11 large amount -- even any opposition to this, I
12 wouldn't have started this back in 2003. And I
13 will say this again. We -- this community --

14 And one thing. I'm not going
15 to -- I don't want -- I don't want one
16 community to get something, and have the other
17 ones not. To keep the other communities whole,
18 okay, the other three exchanges, I think, is --
19 is -- is -- is mandatory or most important.
20 Because they're all within the -- the territory
21 of SBC, where if you go into the other
22 exchanges -- to the other -- the western half
23 of the county, that is Fidelity Telephone.
24 Which, back when we -- when we did the area
25 code change, they did not want to be -- they

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1 wanted to be on their own system, and in the
2 old area code. That's why most of the county
3 is in the 636 area code.

4 But going back -- going back to
5 what you say, I can't think of anybody that
6 would be opposed to this. Now again, they may
7 not sign up. It may not be as good deal as
8 they want. But to say that well, we don't want
9 progress, or we don't want an expansion to the
10 area, no.

11 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Okay. Senator,
12 I want to thank you again for coming out. It's
13 good to see you, and I appreciate it.

14 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Thank you very
15 much.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman, did you
17 have questions?

18 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Senator Griesheimer,
19 it's good to see you.

20 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: It's good to see
21 you, Chairman Davis.

22 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: It's a little odd,
23 being up here, and seeing you out there.

24 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: I know. Trust
25 me, it is for me, too.

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1 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: But it feels
2 good, I would add.

3 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: In your opinion,
5 should we approve this agreement?

6 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: I agreed to this
7 a few months ago. I have been -- I have been
8 fighting this for a number of months. And it's
9 not -- it's not the best deal that we could
10 ever get. But anyway -- I'll put it this way.
11 I want to get -- I want to get to Step B.

12 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay.

13 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: I want us to be
14 like Greenwood is right now, and have a
15 mandatory -- mandatory MCA. Okay? If I got --
16 if this is the only way I'm going to do it, if
17 I can get there, that's the way I want to get
18 there. You know. But --

19 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay.

20 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: But unless I
21 can -- if there's another way of getting there,
22 that's the way I want to do.

23 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay. Now, let me --
24 let me -- let me just ask this question. You'd
25 rather have -- have some now --

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1 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Than none at
2 all.

3 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Some now than none at
4 all. And maybe look for more later?

5 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yes, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay. That's all I
7 need to know. Thank you.

8 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Because believe
9 me, I'm going to be thumping on your door at
10 some point to get -- get to the mandatory. At
11 some point. Because I -- I believe -- I
12 believe in what we're doing. If I didn't, I
13 wouldn't have gone through this whole mess back
14 in 2003.

15 And again, I don't -- I don't know
16 if the Office of Public Counsel remembers how
17 many -- how many letters and phone calls we
18 got, but it was several -- all I can say is
19 several hundred.

20 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay.

21 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Is when the
22 original plan was dropped. But that's where
23 I'm at. I want to get to Plan B.

24 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay. Fair. Thank
25 you. Thank you, Senator.

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1 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Thank you very
2 much.

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Murray,
4 you have a question?

5 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Now, I do have a
6 question, Senator Griesheimer.

7 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: All right.

8 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: You said that
9 there are some of your constituents who would
10 not want to opt into the plan.

11 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Sure.

12 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Is that correct?
13 Isn't it better to have it optional, so that
14 those who don't want to don't have to?

15 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: In that respect,
16 yes, at the numbers we're at. But what
17 everybody would love in this county -- it would
18 be absolutely -- well, obviously you can't have
19 100 percent on everything. But I can tell you
20 what people everywhere hate is dialing 1 to get
21 to Union or to St. Clair or to Beaufort or to
22 Marthasville. They hate that. They would
23 rather have a flat fee and be able to dial.
24 They hate that they have to dial 1 and they get
25 charged this.

1 And as I say, if we could come up
2 with a better way of doing that, I'd love to do
3 it. That's what we -- and maybe somebody here
4 will -- will correct me wrong. But I don't
5 believe so. We -- what we really want is to be
6 able to -- to -- to have a flat fee and call
7 any -- basically anywhere in the MCA, or in
8 Franklin County, or -- or the -- I'll say the
9 MCA. That is what everybody wants. And as I
10 say, what that -- I would love to have that.
11 If everybody would agree to that, fantastic.
12 But I'll take it a step at a time to get there.

13 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Sort of like
14 wireless plans, where you have a flat fee and
15 you can call anywhere in the country.

16 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yes. But I will
17 also tell you that because -- because of the
18 fact -- and again, maybe the pricing is
19 different, because of the cap -- there's no
20 longer a cap -- the fact that this could not be
21 canceled by the phone companies is what -- what
22 I really -- what made me really want this in
23 the most way, is the fact that the PSC could
24 change it, and not the phone company. We'd
25 have -- if this would have been available to

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1 the phone companies, we would have done this a
2 long time ago. But prior Commissions have been
3 resistive, and very, very slow in deliberation
4 and adding -- adding different tiers and
5 different exchanges to the MCA. As I say, if
6 we could have got this 10 years ago, we would
7 have done. But it just wasn't available.

8 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you.
9 That's all I have.

10 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Thank you.

11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Senator, I'm doing
12 things kind of backwards here. I really should
13 have sworn you in so we can rely on your
14 comments. But I'm going to do it now --

15 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: You can do it
16 now.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: -- and ask you to --
18 to solemnly swear or affirm the testimony you
19 gave at this hearing will be the truth -- or is
20 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
21 truth.

22 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: I do.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. I
24 apologize.

25 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: No, ma'am.

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1 That's fine. That's the first one of these
2 I've ever been to, too. So I'm learning
3 myself.

4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Are there any
5 questions for the Senator, Mr. Dandino?

6 MR. DANDINO: Yes, Your Honor. Thank
7 you. Thank you, Senator, for coming and
8 testifying.

9 Question that I have is -- is --
10 now, the MCA is a two-way service, where
11 people -- not only can you call out, but also
12 those who call in --

13 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yes.

14 MR. DANDINO: -- don't have to pay the
15 toll. Is that -- is that -- that two-way
16 calling, is that an important aspect, for
17 economic reasons?

18 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: I think it is.
19 I -- and under oath, when I started this, I --
20 I did not know that you had -- somebody calling
21 into that number from a non-MCA number would
22 have to pay a toll charge. I guess I should
23 have known that, but I had forgotten -- I had
24 forgotten that. Not, you know, dialing, as I
25 do, into the two other MCA exchanges, I had

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1 forgotten that. Well, although I should have
2 known that, but I had forgotten that.

3 MR. DANDINO: But I'm also talking
4 about the people who want to contact the
5 business and industries in this area, in
6 Washington and Union and St. Clair, when you're
7 calling from the St. Louis area or St. Charles
8 County, the toll-free aspect of the MCA, that's
9 the important feature.

10 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: That's the
11 important thing. As I say, if you -- if you
12 would know how many times -- people complain
13 all the time about having to dial 1 to get, as
14 I say, just to Union, seven miles away. That's
15 what people want, is they would rather have a
16 flat fee to call somewhere, to call where
17 they -- and I know we're not talking
18 state-wide. Just in the local area would be --
19 I wish we would have had that a long time ago.

20 MR. DANDINO: And the -- the move,
21 trying -- trying to get MCA is similar to the
22 concerns you had back when -- when the original
23 area codes was going to be split off and -- and
24 this area was at first designated for 573.

25 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yes. And

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1 that's -- that's when I think I met you, a long
2 time ago, is when that happened, and we fought
3 that. I was involved in that. And we were
4 successful, at least at that time, keeping the
5 314 area code here.

6 MR. DANDINO: Associated with the St.
7 Louis metro area.

8 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Yes. Yes.
9 Because we -- that's what we wanted to do. We
10 wanted to still remain as part of the St. Louis
11 metropolitan area. That lasted two years, and
12 then we had to get split off again. At least
13 we're still -- we're still -- we may not be in
14 the 314 area, but at least we're still with a
15 number of communities that are considered
16 metropolitan in nature. And let's face it.
17 This community and the other three communities
18 have grown exponentially due to the fact that
19 we're so close to the St. Louis area.

20 By the way, it doesn't involve you
21 all, but we're part of the non-attainment area
22 for ozone. So we have a lot of commonalities
23 with the St. Louis area, whether we like it or
24 not. And that's why -- that's why, above all,
25 that we should -- we need to be included in an

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1 MCA, or some type of MCA.

2 MR. DANDINO: That's all I have, Your
3 Honor. Thank you.

4 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: And by the way,
5 I want to thank you for everything that you
6 have done to get us here tonight. You've
7 killed a lot of trees over this -- over the
8 several years. And really, I'm very proud to
9 have you here. And I thank you for all your
10 work.

11 MR. DANDINO: Thank you, Senator.
12 Appreciate it.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Ms. MacDonald, did you
14 want to ask the Senator any questions?

15 MS. MacDONALD: No, thank you.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Poston?

17 MR. POSTON: No, thank you.

18 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, Senator.

19 SENATOR GRIESHEIMER: Thank you very
20 much.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: Representative, would
22 you like to make any comments?

23 REPRESENTATIVE NIEVES: I have no
24 comments for the record. I would, though, like
25 to thank you for coming out to Franklin County,

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1 and thank everybody for giving their input.

2 I'm just here to listen and learn.

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right.

4 I'm going to go with my first
5 witness. And it looks like Ron --

6 MR. LICKLIDER: I'll spell the last
7 name.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'd appreciate that.

9 MR. LICKLIDER: Ron -- oh. Go ahead.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Do you solemnly swear
11 or affirm the testimony you're about to give at
12 this hearing will be the truth, the whole truth
13 and nothing but the truth?

14 MR. LICKLIDER: I do. My name's Ron
15 Licklider. And I live at 2085 Bieker Road,
16 Washington, Missouri, which is actually Union,
17 because of dividing lines, mailing address and
18 the phone system and -- it's kind of chaotic,
19 but --

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could you spell your
21 last name for the court reporter.

22 MR. LICKLIDER: It's
23 L-I-C-K-L-I-D-E-R.

24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Go ahead
25 with your comments.

1 MR. LICKLIDER: First, let me start by
2 saying thank you for coming. I really had no
3 intentions of speaking tonight. I was just
4 coming in support of John. But due to the
5 turnout, I figured I'd better get up and say
6 something.

7 We live in kind of a unique area.
8 And I hope you all would at least identify it.
9 When that 314, 636 area codes came into being
10 here, we were to be transferred into the 573.
11 We fought that and got into the 636. That has
12 not been a good deal, in that we're in a little
13 zone, and this little zone, according to the
14 phone company, doesn't exist, quite frankly.
15 Whenever you go to get a phone number, they
16 tell you all kind of stories of how a normal
17 rate is through St. Louis. They give you St.
18 Louis rates. They give you all this
19 information to deal up with St. Louis. But in
20 reality, you don't get it. I recently moved
21 from Washington to Union, and I planned the
22 move strategically to keep my phone number in
23 the 239 area code. I had assurances a year ago
24 from the phone company that I could keep that
25 phone number, and that it would cost me maybe

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1 \$5 a month to do so. It is now costing me
2 eighty-something-dollars a month to keep that
3 phone. Yes. I am paying bills currently,
4 between my cell phone, my normal phone number,
5 my 239 phone number, and Charter Communication,
6 who is handling my internet service, in an
7 excess of \$600 a month. Yes. That's how bad
8 it is out here.

9 And nobody from St. Louis in the
10 636 area code can call me without dialing
11 1-plus. And in the business line of all of
12 that, what happens in actuality, when somebody
13 from St. Louis calls in that 636, they don't
14 get a line item that says oh, you have to dial
15 1-plus to receive this person. They get an
16 exchange busy signal. And when they get that,
17 people just hang up and don't try and call
18 back. It's apparent that you're losing
19 business, quite frankly, just because of that.
20 It's a huge thing.

21 Further than that, this zone that
22 we're in kind of keeps us in limbo. I mean,
23 it's -- it's apparent, like Marthasville to
24 Washington, Washington is to St. Louis. We're
25 in a limbo zone where you can't -- you can't

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1 get the information. We can't get the internet
2 service. We can't get all this information
3 that should be coming out -- it's kind of null
4 and void, because you can't get linked up to
5 them.

6 The system that they're offering
7 to us now would help, as John said, if
8 everybody was induced into it. But if it's
9 just a camaraderie of whoever wants it, I don't
10 think it's going to be picked up by many
11 people. In a business line, it will, but in a
12 residential line, it won't, primarily because
13 of what else is introduced. Today's world, you
14 have cell phones, you have a long distance
15 plan -- I have a long distance plan that allows
16 me to call anywhere in the USA. That service
17 is equal to this service. I don't have to have
18 this service. The only reason I want this
19 service is for the inbound calls, not my
20 outbounds. And that is kind of a costly
21 mistake.

22 I don't understand why they can't
23 okay us to be put into this 314 or 636 code
24 within the phone company. And it's hard to
25 understand until you -- you contact the phone

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1 company and ask them a simple question, and
2 they'll okay it until it actually starts to
3 happen. And then they go uh-oh. I fought
4 for -- it took over 30 days to get my local
5 phone hooked back up to a turnover. In other
6 words, my 239 number to run my 583 number, it
7 took over a month of working with the phone
8 company to get that phone hooked back up again,
9 and it was ludicrous. I mean, if you knew the
10 hours and the phone calls that it took to get
11 that done. And it's all because of the system.
12 And we're lost. Okay. Thank you.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

14 Commissioner Murray, did you have any
15 questions?

16 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you for
17 your testimony. It's my understanding from
18 listening to you that your primary problem, or
19 primary concern is that people are unable to
20 call you without dialing 1-plus, and if they
21 attempt to do so, they get an exchange busy
22 signal which doesn't tell them what they need
23 to do to reach you. Is that correct?

24 MR. LICKLIDER: That is correct.

25 That's one of the problems. I mean, the other

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1 one exists, as John has stated, too, if
2 everyone in Washington was on the system, then
3 you would just inadvertently call. But when
4 you just post it up today to say you're going
5 to pay another \$30 and you can call somebody,
6 who is there to call? I mean, you're going to
7 have to find people that's within the system to
8 change, and that could take years to have them
9 implemented, when you consider the mobile phone
10 service and the -- the long distance services
11 that are out there that the -- the phone
12 companies are offering.

13 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And you
14 indicated that for out -- your outgoing calls,
15 you don't really need this service, because you
16 have a lot of varying options available to you.

17 MR. LICKLIDER: I've got a long
18 distance service that costs -- it's about \$70 a
19 month, in actuality, that I call anywhere in
20 the USA, unlimited. So the service isn't going
21 to help me very much on that end.

22 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And do you find
23 that the people that are trying to call you do
24 not subscribe to that kind of service?

25 MR. LICKLIDER: It's -- in the St.

0044

1 Louis zone, they are on a standard phone line
2 there. They can call anywhere in that zone.
3 And so they don't implement -- when you say the
4 636, they're in the 636 area code. So they
5 think that they can call us. And they just --
6 it's a logistics problem with the phone
7 company.

8 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: So the -- I'm
9 trying to be sure I understand what it is. But
10 is your major problem -- it appears to be that
11 people who are trying to call you don't fully
12 understand what they need to do to reach you.

13 MR. LICKLIDER: That's a -- a great
14 portion of it. But understand, if you're -- if
15 your phone number -- if your home location is,
16 let's say, 636 and the numbers, if you're in
17 that zone, you can call anybody else within
18 that 636 area code without dialing long
19 distance. You cannot do that here.

20 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Yes. And the --
21 and the people that --

22 MR. LICKLIDER: Inside or out -- if
23 they're in St. Louis calling me, they can't get
24 through either.

25 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. Thank

0045

1 you.

2 MR. LICKLIDER: Uh-huh.

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton,
4 did you have questions?

5 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Sir, I -- I
6 wrote down a couple of things -- a couple of
7 notes that I wanted to ask you, and now that I
8 look at my notes, they don't make any sense.
9 So I'm going to try to reconstruct what my
10 questions, I think, were.

11 You mentioned that all of your
12 communications bills were amounting to \$600 a
13 month. I think that included internet,
14 wireless, wire line and long distance.

15 MR. LICKLIDER: Uh-huh.

16 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Anything else
17 in there?

18 MR. LICKLIDER: Cell phones.

19 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Cell phones.
20 Yeah. And how much of that did you say was
21 long distance? Or did you?

22 MR. LICKLIDER: There's a \$70 long
23 distance charge for -- for the -- anywhere USA
24 plan.

25 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: And I guess

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1 maybe I should rephrase the question. Before
2 I -- seemed like I'm asking about your personal
3 phone bill and where you're spending your
4 money. I guess I thought what you were saying
5 is that this MCA extension would reduce your
6 long distance bill because it would -- it would
7 expand your calling scope into local calling.
8 And maybe I misunderstood that.

9 MR. LICKLIDER: It actually won't,
10 because there won't be anybody for me to call,
11 unless everybody signs up on it. In other
12 words, the system, as it stands right now, and
13 even if you implement this, unless somebody
14 else gets on the exchange, too, then -- and
15 that's only going to happen in Washington and
16 Union. It's not going to happen anywhere else,
17 because they're already there. So the only
18 place that's going to affect me would be in
19 local calling here. The outbound calls that I
20 make, I've got a plan. And it's a costly one,
21 but it's -- it's a plan.

22 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: So where would
23 this -- where would this help you? I guess I'm
24 confused. Is it just Washington and Union
25 or --

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1 MR. LICKLIDER: I was in hopes that
2 the plan, as it was first initiated -- before I
3 came up here, I did not know all the
4 restrictions that are on the system. The
5 restrictions are what's not right. I thought
6 what we were doing was implementing this system
7 into the 636 area code. But we are not.

8 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Are we in the
9 636 area code right now?

10 MR. LICKLIDER: Yes. Yes, you are.

11 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: So it's in the
12 636 area code right now. So were you thinking
13 it was going to go into a different tier of the
14 MCA?

15 MR. LICKLIDER: We are in the 636 area
16 code, but not via the phone company. All I can
17 tell you, we are long distance 636. Any call
18 in or outbound has to be 1-plus.

19 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Can you -- what
20 does that --

21 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Let the record
22 reflect that Mimi MacDonald is shaking her head
23 yes to that statement.

24 MS. MacDONALD: I think what is
25 happening, based on what he's saying, is that

0048

1 he's in 636, but it's an inter-exchange call
2 for him to call Chesterfield, which is also
3 636. But the Chesterfield people, which are in
4 MCA 3, for example, can call all the other
5 Chesterfield people in MCA 3, and they can call
6 outbound to the subscribers in 4 and 5. But
7 5 -- MCA 5 works differently than the other
8 tiers, because MCA 5 customers can only call
9 other MCA 5 subscribers.

10 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: MCA
11 subscribers.

12 MS. MacDONALD: Right.

13 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: So they can't
14 call 314?

15 MS. MacDONALD: No. They can. They
16 can call down. But as far as within Tier 5 --

17 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: So it's not
18 unlimited -- it's not unlimited within the Tier
19 5 MCA. You have to -- you have to call another
20 MCA subscriber, is what you're talking?

21 MR. LICKLIDER: Correct.

22 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: But you can call
23 anyone in Tiers 1 through 4 and they can call
24 you.

25 MS. MacDONALD: That's correct. And

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1 that was the way the plan was historically set
2 up in 1992.

3 MR. LICKLIDER: And see, since '82,
4 all those people are on the system. But
5 because of modernization, new plans, I mean,
6 there's all kinds of service plans out here,
7 people have adjusted, and are paying other
8 bills. But when it comes to calling inter
9 between Washington and Union, you can't. I
10 mean, it's long distance. Then if you call St.
11 Louis, it's long distance, too.

12 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Well, sir, not
13 to -- not to put you on the spot or anything,
14 because I -- this has been helpful for me to
15 understand what the implications would be in
16 the area. And MCA is not something that's
17 easily -- you don't pick it up real quick,
18 because there are exceptions and complications
19 to it. But in your opinion, with the
20 limitations associated with Tier 5 MCA, do you
21 still believe that we should approve this
22 agreement?

23 MR. LICKLIDER: I guess I'm with John,
24 in the sense that the door is open. And it's
25 better than what we have now. Yes. But it's

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1 still not the complement that we should have,
2 and we should be getting. We're -- our
3 district -- the city of St. Louis is
4 approximately 50 miles long. From St. Louis,
5 we're closer than that. And it's sad to think
6 that -- what's actually happened,
7 logistics-wise, here in Washington is we're
8 outdistancing the industrial portion of St.
9 Louis. From Washington to almost Fenton,
10 there's no industrial anything, exception maybe
11 in Pacific somewhat, where Washington is a zone
12 of its own. It has created its own industrial
13 zone. It's moving into a fast-paced society.
14 Wildwood kind of went lame, and said we want to
15 stay residential. We don't want anybody doing
16 anything. And that zone is between us. So
17 we're kind of hung out here in no-man's land.
18 We should be very much a part of the St. Louis
19 metropolitan area. But because of the phone
20 system, we're just not. And, I mean, this
21 system here is a Band-Aid. But you could go a
22 step further. I mean, at the same time you're
23 going to do this, I think you could go a step
24 further, and either make it, as John said,
25 mandatory for all residents at a lower rate, or

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1 get with the phone company and ask them. I
2 don't understand why they're in this situation.

3 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Let me -- this
4 is my last question, to forewarn you, so you
5 know that the end is near. What do you see in
6 terms of competitive presence or competitive
7 plans, or alternatives to going to the phone
8 company? You've used the term phone company,
9 and -- we're not supposed to do that anymore,
10 because there are multiple providers that are
11 out there. There's some more in certain places
12 in the state. But what do you see in terms of
13 alternatives, either wireless -- do you see
14 wireless as an alternative to wire line? -- or
15 specific companies and plans?

16 MR. LICKLIDER: I have heard and
17 discussed -- Charter Cable, for instance, is
18 supposed to be, within the year, implementing a
19 phone service out here. How far they're going
20 to take that, it depends on the money
21 acquisition that they put forth. And then
22 again, that also depends -- they may zone in
23 Washington city and not the outlying area.
24 And -- and a lot of that's an if, so we don't
25 know. There is a difference currently between

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1 Washington city and the outlying areas, too --
2 I don't know if you're aware of that -- in
3 what -- what the phone company offers. You can
4 get an internet service in the city of
5 Washington, but outside of the city limits, you
6 cannot. And -- and that's a huge hit in
7 today's world. I mean, there are people
8 working out of homes, I mean, they can't get
9 the internet service. Now, they have -- and
10 they're bringing up more and more modern stuff.
11 There's a tower system that they're introducing
12 into this Washington area. There's things
13 that's coming at a faster pace than what this
14 MC is --

15 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Do you see --
16 do you see cellular service as an alternative
17 to wire line service?

18 MR. LICKLIDER: Oh, definitely. I
19 mean, most people -- that's probably the reason
20 you don't see people in here, is because
21 they're -- they're somewhat satisfied with that
22 cellular system. But you still have a land
23 line base. You can't get rid of it.

24 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Is Commissioner
25 Murray smiling down there?

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1 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I'm nodding.

2 MR. LICKLIDER: I would gladly get rid
3 of my land line.

4 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: But you
5 haven't.

6 MR. LICKLIDER: And I won't. I can't.
7 I mean, you cannot -- the service at the -- at
8 the --

9 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: The wireless?

10 MR. LICKLIDER: -- wireless system is
11 not good enough. Period.

12 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Wireless
13 service is not good enough. Okay. I apologize
14 for dragging this out. I appreciate this is --

15 MR. LICKLIDER: I mean, I've fought
16 with this for a long time. I really think that
17 Washington is being excluded from the city of
18 St. Louis.

19 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Thank you very
20 much.

21 MR. LICKLIDER: Thank you.

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman, did you
23 have questions?

24 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Yes, sir. First of
25 all, thank you for coming tonight. We really

0054

1 do appreciate your participation.

2 Okay. I need to ask you about
3 your last comments. Hypothetically speaking,
4 if -- if wireless companies came to this
5 Commission asking us to certify them for
6 universal service funds that will enable them
7 to expand their network, and basically, we have
8 a choice between regulating them little or
9 regulating them a lot in exchange for -- for --
10 for certifying them and allowing them to
11 receive these federal funds, do you think we
12 should insist on quality of service
13 requirements for them, to try to -- to try to
14 make them be more responsive to do a better
15 job, in terms of quality?

16 MR. LICKLIDER: I think the mobile
17 wireless system is -- is what the future is
18 going to bring. I doubt that -- I mean, the
19 land line is antiquated, to the extent that
20 it's not mobile. And yes, the future will
21 bring this -- what you're talking about, I
22 mean, point blank. You're going to -- it needs
23 to be implemented. There needs to be
24 restrictions put on to force them to make a
25 better system. There's a lot of places right

0055

1 here in Washington that you can't get service.
2 And as simple as right down here. I mean, you
3 just go down the block a little ways, and you
4 lose service. That's -- seems to be continuing
5 to work. I mean, the wireless system keeps
6 saying they keep making a better system. And
7 it's moving. But I don't know how far and how
8 fast. But you're still very dependent --

9 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: So if we thought we
10 could do something to speed that up, you'd be
11 supportive of that?

12 MR. LICKLIDER: Oh, most definitely.
13 But believe me, you're still very tied to a
14 land line service.

15 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Right.

16 MR. LICKLIDER: You're not going to
17 get around that either, I don't think. Not for
18 a long time to come.

19 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: All right. Thank
20 you, sir, for coming.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Dandino, did you
22 want to ask some questions?

23 MR. DANDINO: Yes. Thanks so much for
24 coming out here. I do appreciate it.

25 Once again, your last comment,

0056

1 where you can't get away from a wire line
2 service, do you think that's a lot more true
3 that -- with industrial customers and business
4 customers, that they can't so-called cut the
5 cord and just go wireless?

6 MR. LICKLIDER: Most definitely. I
7 mean, you're -- when you've got multiple lines
8 into a phone system, you're going throughout --
9 now, it's not to say that somebody can't change
10 that into the future. A wireless system, if
11 you had it available where you could plug it
12 into your -- your land line system and then
13 negotiate it, that's a possibility. But
14 basically, a land line service is the only way
15 you can assure that the phone calls are going
16 through.

17 MR. DANDINO: Thank you. That's all I
18 have, sir. Thanks again.

19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Ms. MacDonald, did you
20 want to ask anything?

21 MS. MacDONALD: I have no questions.
22 Thank you, Mr. Licklider.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Any questions, Mr.
24 Poston?

25 MR. POSTON: No questions. Thank you.

0057

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, Mr.

2 Licklider.

3 Russell Rost?

4 MR. ROST: Rost.

5 JUDGE DIPPELL: Rost? I'm sorry.

6 MR. ROST: That's okay.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: I am just here tonight
8 to mess up everybody's names.

9 MR. ROST: You come to this German
10 territory, and it's hard.

11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Do you solemnly swear
12 or affirm the testimony you're about to give at
13 this hearing will be the truth, the whole truth
14 and nothing but the truth?

15 MR. ROST: Yes, I do.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. If you
17 could please state your name and spell it for
18 the court reporter.

19 MR. ROST: Russell -- R-U-S-S-E-L-L --
20 Rost -- R-O-S-T. And I'm here as the city
21 administrator from the city of St. Clair. And
22 I've discussed the hearing tonight with our
23 Board of Aldermen and Mayor, and they've asked
24 me to come here and give our input to it.

25 We are supportive of the MCA,

0058

1 particularly for our commercial users. I think
2 that's where the majority of the benefit would
3 come from.

4 A lot of the area I planned on
5 talking about has been covered, so I don't want
6 to drag this out any longer. I'm sure you're
7 glad of that. But we are supportive of it.

8 As a residential customer, I have
9 not experienced -- I live outside the city
10 limits of Union, in the Krakow area. I have
11 not experienced the problems Mr. -- the
12 previous speaker has had. My phone bill's
13 about \$90 a month. I have two phone lines,
14 internet service, and I'm -- and have lots of
15 options as far as the service. And I do have
16 the area-wide package that SBC offers. And I'm
17 very satisfied. Wireless is not available at
18 my home, but I do think -- in fact, I was just
19 reading an article today that wireless is
20 probably going to be coming down worldwide
21 within just a few years, because of the
22 technology increases.

23 But I think anything, including
24 MCA, that makes us -- our interconnectivity
25 with the St. Louis area is very important. We

0059

1 have three -- sorry -- two industrial parks
2 with only three lots vacant in both of those
3 parks. So for our -- our manufacturers, they
4 are doing business with people in the St. Louis
5 area. They do do some business to the west,
6 but the majority of it is with the St. Louis
7 area. I think they all are understanding now
8 that they have to be competitive worldwide. I
9 was meeting with one of our -- our -- they
10 operate a supply chain, and they're dealing
11 with companies in India and China already.
12 And, you know, that's our future. And anything
13 that can make us more competitive in the
14 economic development field, I think, is
15 important for our citizens and especially our
16 commercial industrial users.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

18 Commissioner Murray, did you want
19 to ask questions?

20 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you.

21 You're in the 636 area code.

22 Correct?

23 MR. ROST: Yes, we are.

24 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: And when someone
25 from St. Louis in the 636 area code calls you,

0060

1 are you experiencing any problems with that?

2 MR. ROST: No, we're not. And I think
3 it's because, I guess, familiarity with the --
4 with our vendors and our customers. They know
5 they have to dial a 1-plus in order to get to
6 us, and we know it going to them. I don't ever
7 recall getting that tone that it's a busy
8 circuit. What I have experienced is a tone
9 that you must dial 1-plus in order to make the
10 call. That -- I have had that happen from
11 home. I've had that happen from work. But I
12 haven't experienced it where it's just been a
13 busy signal.

14 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: You have
15 experienced getting a message telling you what
16 you -- that you do have to dial 1?

17 MR. ROST: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: All right.
19 Thank you.

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton?

21 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I don't think I
22 have any questions. Thank you for coming out
23 tonight.

24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Chairman Davis?

25 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: No further questions,

0061

1 sir. Thank you for coming. We really do
2 appreciate you coming on behalf of the City of
3 St. Clair. And we really do appreciate the
4 input. Thank you.

5 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Dandino?

6 MR. DANDINO: Yes. Mr. Rost, thank
7 you very much for coming.

8 Just one question is do the
9 businesses and industries in your community, do
10 they rely upon the land line for internet
11 and -- and for just your normal
12 telecommunications?

13 MR. ROST: It's changed. But right
14 now, they do, primarily. And I did check at my
15 home -- I'm right outside of Union -- for the
16 availability with SBC for wireless, and it was
17 not available there yet.

18 MR. DANDINO: And usually, the
19 businesses and industry, they don't -- they may
20 use wireless, but they don't rely upon that?

21 MR. ROST: They -- I don't -- well, I
22 have -- I am working with a developer right now
23 who wanted us to give him a projection, and
24 even contact some companies to see how soon he
25 could expect to have wireless availability. So

0062

1 it is important. It is a question that's asked
2 when you make economic development contacts.

3 MR. DANDINO: So in St. Clair,
4 wireless communication isn't even an option?

5 MR. ROST: It is, in some small
6 potions. Yes.

7 MR. DANDINO: Okay. Thank you.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Ms. MacDonald?

9 MS. MacDONALD: I have no questions.
10 Thank you, Mr. Rost.

11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Poston?

12 MR. POSTON: I have no questions.

13 MR. ROST: Thank you for allowing me
14 to speak.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Dennis -- and I'm not
16 even going to -- I'm not even going to try.

17 MR. KRAMME: That's me.

18 JUDGE DIPPELL: Do you solemnly swear
19 or affirm the testimony you give in this
20 hearing will be the truth, the whole truth and
21 nothing but the truth?

22 MR. KRAMME: I do.

23 My name is Dennis Kramme,
24 K-R-A-M-M-E. I feel like I'm the foster child
25 from across the river. But bear with me. I've

0063

1 written notes as we've gone along here, and
2 they're all different, so I've numbered them,
3 and I'll try to follow through here.

4 But to answer your question
5 earlier about, I think, why more people are not
6 here tonight, personally, I -- I saw it in the
7 newspaper, I got an e-mail from the Chamber.
8 But from the information that I read that I
9 received, I was of the understanding that this
10 was sort of a -- just a formality, I guess, and
11 that it was -- I don't know why anybody would
12 be against it. Let me put it that way. I
13 think it's a wonderful, and it's been a long
14 time coming. But again, I think people just
15 kind of expected, you know, there won't be any
16 problems with it, that there wouldn't be any
17 objection.

18 The concerning part to me tonight
19 was to come here to get information. And
20 really, I -- there wasn't a presentation made.
21 We were able to ask some questions earlier.
22 And from that short conversation, there were
23 things revealed, such as not being able to call
24 within the MCA 5 area, you know, one person to
25 another, unless you were a subscribing person.

0064

1 I think the public doesn't understand that. I
2 think that that's not been portrayed to the --
3 to the general public. I think that this whole
4 thing is very important to the community, but
5 it's going to be unsatisfactory in -- in that
6 respect.

7 Again, the confusing part, the
8 pink area. Comment was made that if you called
9 someone and they weren't an MCA subscriber,
10 that they would get a message that would say,
11 you know, you have to hang up and dial 1. I --
12 I can't even begin to imagine the frustration
13 that people will have within this area, trying
14 to call each other, and not knowing who's
15 subscribing, and who isn't, and, you know, you
16 get a number, and you've got to hang up and
17 redial it. I think that that would become very
18 frustrating.

19 Like I said, I live on the other
20 side of the river. We're seven miles from
21 Washington. Our doctors, our shopping,
22 everything is -- is over here. For over 20
23 years, we've paid additional fees to the phone
24 company on that side of the river in order to
25 have the privilege to call Washington. Again,

0065

1 it was an option. I feel it was a privilege,
2 because it was better than -- than paying all
3 the long distance charges. Satisfactory or
4 sufficient? I don't believe so.

5 We get the Washington Missourian,
6 the local newspaper. There are always ads from
7 Southwestern Bell offering this plan or that
8 plan. Very attractive plans. You know, again,
9 you -- you call, and because we're on that side
10 of the river with a different phone company,
11 we're not eligible. Our phone companies don't
12 offer those kind of plans, other than the one
13 that we pay now \$30 a month, I guess, to be
14 able to call just the Washington exchange.

15 I personally don't understand the
16 rate setting system. I understand, you know,
17 that you all assist in that process, but -- but
18 why the rates are so different from one part of
19 the state or county to another, I -- doesn't
20 make any sense. I mean -- and again, even
21 within this -- the calling area, the number 5,
22 you know, if Southwestern Bell can charge one
23 thing and CenturyTel something else, you know,
24 why wouldn't it be the same rate throughout the
25 whole plan? I don't understand it.

0066

1 The nationwide calling plans, from
2 my experience, can be a good thing. Although
3 when you go to call -- and I think they use the
4 excuse or -- I don't understand all the terms.
5 But the LATAs, which is the local calling zone
6 or whatever, it's still a long distance call,
7 even within that.

8 I agree that mandatory with a
9 lower cost would be the way to go. And I would
10 highly support that, if the rate was to where
11 people could afford it.

12 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. I
13 didn't -- I don't believe I got your address.
14 Could you --

15 MR. KRAMME: It's 2317 Highway D,
16 Marthasville, Missouri 63357.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.
18 Commissioner Murray, did you have any
19 questions?

20 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Just one. That
21 is, are you here to support or oppose this
22 plan?

23 MR. KRAMME: I guess I'm here to
24 support it. I'm also here to say that I'm
25 frustrated or saddened by the fact that I don't

0067

1 think people really understand what this really
2 means. And again, I think it'll impact the
3 businesses probably much more than the -- than
4 the residential customer.

5 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you.

6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton?

7 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Do you look at
8 this as -- has this issue been placed before
9 you, either in the media or in communications
10 from either the Commission, or the phone
11 company, or whoever, in a manner that would
12 appear that it's simply yes or no on this
13 particular issue, on how it is structured, on
14 the price, on the tier within the MCA?

15 MR. KRAMME: I hesitate to answer
16 that, because I -- I'm not -- you know, I
17 didn't pay that close of attention to -- you
18 know, I read in the newspaper, read about the
19 public hearing, and, you know, the details of
20 it. I -- I guess I just assumed that it was
21 just like the other calling plans that, you
22 know, you pay your \$30 and you would be able to
23 call anywhere within the area.

24 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Well, to --

25 MR. KRAMME: There wasn't anything

0068

1 that I read or saw that said you had to be --
2 or within this Number 5 area.

3 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: To copy a
4 phrase from our chairman, it sounds like you
5 have a high degree of low enthusiasm for this.

6 MR. KRAMME: For this -- for the way
7 it's presented, yes. But I agree with Senator
8 Griesheimer that, you know, we -- we have to
9 have something out here. You know, the long
10 distance to call seven miles is ridiculous.

11 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: To call how
12 many miles?

13 MR. KRAMME: Seven miles, two miles,
14 one mile, call across the street.

15 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I'm from
16 Hannibal, and I'll tell you, you call about
17 four miles, you're calling long distance. So
18 it's felt in many places around the state on
19 the impact, and not having expanded calling
20 scope. So I understand exactly what you're
21 saying.

22 So you're supporting the proposal?

23 MR. KRAMME: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: You are? Okay.
25 Okay. Thank you.

0069

1 MR. KRAMME: But I think it needs to
2 go further.

3 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: "Yes, but..."
4 is your answer. Correct?

5 MR. KRAMME: Yes.

6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman, did you
7 have any questions?

8 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: No questions, sir.
9 But thank you for your testimony. Thank you
10 for coming out tonight. I think we -- we get
11 the message.

12 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Dandino?

13 MR. DANDINO: I have no questions.
14 But thank you, Mr. Kramme.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Ms. MacDonald?

16 MS. MacDONALD: I have no questions.
17 Thank you, Mr. Kramme.

18 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Poston?

19 MR. POSTON: I have one question. I
20 may have missed this before, but which company
21 provides you with your local service?

22 MR. KRAMME: CenturyTel.

23 MR. POSTON: Thank you.

24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, sir. That
25 was all of the witnesses I had signed up. Is

0070

1 there anyone else who wished to testify that
2 didn't sign up? Ma'am? Go ahead. Do you
3 solemnly swear or affirm the testimony you're
4 about to give at this hearing will be the
5 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
6 truth?

7 MS. GRIESHEIMER: Yes, I do.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would you please state
9 your name and spell it.

10 MS. GRIESHEIMER: My name is Rita
11 Griesheimer. G-R-I-E-S-H-E-I-M-E-R. 33 Oxford
12 Drive, Washington, Missouri. And I didn't have
13 a whole lot to say. That's why I really didn't
14 sign up.

15 I am in favor of the plan. I
16 definitely think that the mandatory would be
17 much better than the proposal that it is right
18 now. It would definitely help businesses. I
19 know in my business, we have a St. Louis line,
20 so that people can call us toll free. That
21 way, they don't have to pay a charge to call
22 us. So we would be able to get rid of that
23 line. We actually have, I think, two lines --
24 two St. Louis lines or three St. Louis lines,
25 actually. And we would be able to get rid of

0071

1 those if they could just call, you know, our
2 number.

3 But I think the mandatory would be
4 great, because one of the reasons is that the
5 people would not have to, then, change their
6 phone numbers. Because I know the first time
7 when it came out in the paper saying that they
8 were looking at this, and my mother called me
9 that day and said so I can call your brother
10 and my sister tomorrow, who live in Union. And
11 I said no, Mother, it has to be approved yet.
12 No, but it said in the paper. And I said no,
13 Mother. I said besides that, you have to
14 change your phone number. She said but I can't
15 change my phone number. I'm 89 years old, and
16 I've had this number for 50 years now. No one
17 will know where to call. So, you know, I don't
18 think the price would be that prohibitive,
19 because the price would actually go down, if it
20 was mandatory. And I think a lot of the people
21 will think they know how it works in St. Louis,
22 they've heard from other people how it works
23 out there, and that they can just call anyone
24 for free. And I think that that's how they
25 think it would run out here. And so even once

0072

1 they signed up, they're going to be really
2 shocked to find that that's not how it's
3 working. And so to pay, you know, an even less
4 price to get the service that they want would
5 be really great. So that's all I have.

6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.
7 Commissioner Murray, did you have any
8 questions?

9 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you.
10 If -- if there were a mandatory plan that
11 required those who are not currently desirous
12 of subscribing to pay more than they currently
13 pay, do you -- are you still saying that would
14 be preferable to the plan that is currently
15 being proposed?

16 MS. GRIESHEIMER: Yes, I do. Because
17 I think that, you know, the people wouldn't --
18 it wouldn't be that much additional to get the
19 additional service. Because the people are
20 paying additional now to make long distance
21 phone calls. So you would really be talking
22 the net difference between what they're paying
23 now to make these calls to, you know, the local
24 communities around, versus what this would be.
25 And the difference, I feel, wouldn't be that

0073

1 substantial. And it would give them a lot more
2 free -- free calling, you know, more leeway in
3 who they called and how long they talked and
4 that.

5 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Do you think
6 that certain customers don't make any of those
7 long distance calls at all?

8 MS. GRIESHEIMER: Oh, I think very
9 few. Very, very few.

10 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Do you think
11 some of them do it through a plan that includes
12 any of their nationwide calling --

13 MS. GRIESHEIMER: No.

14 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: -- so that
15 they --

16 MS. GRIESHEIMER: There's some that do
17 not, I know. I mean, my mother being one of
18 them. She does not have anything. She just
19 pays the long distance call. And -- and my
20 brother and her sister will tell you they know
21 when she's at the other one's house, because
22 she calls, because then they're both in Union
23 and it won't be a long distance call for her.
24 I mean, she has no long distance service. She
25 pays whatever it costs to call Union for that

0074

1 charge.

2 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: So customers use
3 a pretty wide variety of -- they have a pretty
4 wide variety of calling patterns; do they not?

5 MS. GRIESHEIMER: Oh, yes. Uh-huh.

6 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Okay. Thank
7 you.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.
9 Commissioner Clayton?

10 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Thank you for
11 coming out, Ms. Griesheimer. What a
12 coincidence. Two Griesheimers in one public
13 hearing.

14 MS. GRIESHEIMER: With the same
15 address.

16 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I wasn't going
17 to get personal.

18 You brought up a very interesting
19 point, the whole concept of having to change
20 numbers. And the way the MCA works is that
21 anyone who signs up for the service would have
22 to change their phone number. Do you think
23 that's an impediment to people accessing the
24 service?

25 MS. GRIESHEIMER: Yes. Most

0075

1 definitely, I do think. And earlier, before
2 the Commission started, we were discussing that
3 just a little. And I had asked then if we
4 could request the last four digits of our
5 number to stay the same, and they said they
6 would not be allowed to do that. I think your
7 Commission -- I think they said the PSC --
8 requires that they start with, you know, phone
9 number 0001, 0002, they have to give them out
10 sequentially. So we could not -- if my phone
11 number is 239-1234, I could not request that it
12 be exchange 587-1234. You know, the last four
13 digits could not be requested by me and given
14 to me.

15 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: That's
16 partially -- partially accurate. It's not
17 clear on who would receive which block of a
18 thousand numbers. I think -- excuse me.
19 Southwestern Bell Missouri doing business as
20 AT&T Missouri -- whatever their name is now.
21 We changed it today. We approved the change.
22 They've already requested I think for the
23 community of Washington 10,000 numbers to deal
24 with this MCA issue. And it's unlikely they'd
25 use all those numbers. So they may not have

0076

1 access to the entire prefix of digits. So
2 there may be the possibility -- if you're 0001
3 through 1000, maybe, if that's how the block
4 goes, there would be a possibility of having
5 the same number. But it's not clear, because
6 there are competitive providers that would also
7 have to have access to that prefix of numbers.
8 Does that help? I know. Took me a while as
9 well.

10 MS. GRIESHEIMER: I still don't like
11 the idea. I guess I understand, but I --

12 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Having to
13 change the numbers?

14 MS. GRIESHEIMER: Yeah. Like I say,
15 the prefix isn't even so bad. It's the last
16 four digits. You know, I mean like for
17 businesses, too.

18 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Well, this --

19 MS. GRIESHEIMER: I mean, when you've
20 been in business for years, and you've always
21 had this prefix -- I mean, the last four
22 digits, it would sure be beneficial to be able
23 to at least keep those last four digits.

24 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I understand.
25 The reason why the numbers are not free-flowing

0077

1 when you open up a new prefix of numbers is
2 that the area codes exhaust, and that's why
3 you've had the change in the area code, from
4 314 in some instances to -- 314, 573; and then
5 some went to 636. Those numbers are a very hot
6 commodity, and we have to preserve those the
7 best we can, so that we don't have to keep
8 changing area codes on a regular basis. So
9 there has to be some monitoring. And that's,
10 in part, done by our Commission, but in part
11 done at the federal level, also. But it's a
12 very important point, because no one here wants
13 to see area codes run out, and we have to
14 implement a new area code plan, because it's
15 very painful for everybody.

16 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: I haven't been
17 through one, but they've all been described to
18 me by anyone who's been present as very
19 painful.

20 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: But it's a very
21 significant issue. So thank you for coming
22 out. I won't belabor the point.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman, did you
24 have any questions?

25 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Mrs. Griesheimer, I

0078

1 just have one question. If we approve this
2 plan, do you think a lot of people are going to
3 take advantage of it, or a lot of businesses
4 are going to take advantage of it, or -- you
5 know, do we think a lot of people are going to
6 use these numbers?

7 MS. GRIESHEIMER: I think a fairly
8 good amount of businesses will use it. But I
9 don't know. New people coming in will use it.
10 But I don't know how many of the existing
11 personal individuals will change their phone
12 number to be able to. There will be some,
13 definitely.

14 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay.

15 MS. GRIESHEIMER: I know there's a lot
16 of them that will be interested. But I don't
17 know if it will be a huge number. And
18 especially once they find out that they can't
19 just call anybody in that exchange for free,
20 the other person has to also be on it.

21 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Right. Okay. Thank
22 you, Mrs. Griesheimer.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Dandino?

24 MR. DANDINO: Yes. Once again, thank
25 you for coming out to testify.

1 I did have a question, kind of
2 following up on what the chairman was asking
3 you. On the -- if -- if -- if we made -- and
4 this goes against current practice. But if we
5 made it where it is optional for MCA, but where
6 the -- because we anticipate a lot of -- a lot
7 of people taking the MCA, that we say only
8 those who do not subscribe to the MCA have to
9 change your -- their phone number, what would
10 you think would be the public reaction to that?

11 MS. GRIESHEIMER: I don't think that
12 would go over at all. It's like forcing
13 somebody to have to elect to take the MCA.

14 MR. DANDINO: Yes.

15 MS. GRIESHEIMER: That's the way they
16 would look at it.

17 MR. DANDINO: Sure. That's my
18 thought, too. But I just was wondering if you
19 had a comment on that.

20 One thing, too, I wanted to
21 clarify, that -- that people in the -- in the
22 same zone, like in the MCA 5, if it's a local
23 call now, even under the MCA, it'll remain a
24 local call, if I recall right. So if -- if
25 you're calling within the same exchange, or

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1 let's say you can call the neighboring exchange
2 through an EAS with a local call, that will
3 still remain the same. I just want to make --
4 make sure you understand that.

5 Okay. Thank you. That's all I
6 have.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Ms. MacDonald, any
8 questions?

9 MS. MacDONALD: Thank you, Ms.
10 Griesheimer. I have no questions.

11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Poston?

12 MR. POSTON: No, thank you.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you,
14 Mrs. Griesheimer.

15 MS. GRIESHEIMER: Thank you.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there anyone else
17 who wishes to testify? I'd like to thank
18 everyone for coming out this evening. Mr.
19 Chairman, did you want to make any closing
20 remarks?

21 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Well, I just think
22 that, you know, public participation is a very
23 important part of our process. And we depend
24 on meetings like this to go out and find out,
25 you know, what -- what the people, you know,

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1 outside of Jefferson City in the local
2 communities that we're making decisions about
3 are thinking. So these meetings are very
4 important. We really appreciate your
5 participation. And I would expect at some
6 point here in the future, you know, we will be
7 back, whether it be with regard to your phone,
8 water, sewer, gas or electric service. I mean,
9 there's a high probability that we will be
10 coming back at some point. And, you know, we'd
11 appreciate you, you know, if you see that we're
12 coming back, to try to come out again and
13 encourage your friends to do the same. Thank
14 you.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

16 Well, seeing no further witnesses,
17 then, I'll conclude this public hearing. Thank
18 you. We can go off the record.

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